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J. B. ...

James J. Bell

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Corrupt Ministers

The CAUSE of Publick

CALAMITIES;

OR, THE

Interest of the King and his People, One.

BEING

A Brief Relation of some Publick Crimes
Committed in the Government,

During the Late

V V A R.

Humbly offer'd to the Consideration of the

Honourable House of Commons.

L O N D O N:

Printed, and Sold by the Bookfellers of London and
Westminster, MDCCI.

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CORRUPT MINISTERS

The CAUSE of

Publick Calamities;

O R,

The Interest of the King and his
People, One, &c.

THE Nation being now at Peace with all the World, and Armed Troops laid aside; I shall give a Summary Account of such Matters as were by me, during the late War, laid before both Houses of Parliament. And leave your Honours and the World to judge, *Whether or no the King's Ministers and Servants have answered the great End and Design of the late Revolution; or treated the People of England according to their Laws, and his Majesty's goodness.*

The late Revolution was that which gave a general satisfaction to all true English-men, and no Man sat down with more Pleasure than I did, in looking back to consider how great a Deliverance we received thereby. And altho' I saw the War had been divers years on foot, and like to continue, and Trade (the best Jewel in the Crown) greatly oppressed, yet did I not apprehend my self at all concerned in
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the matter, as conceiving the King's Ministers would not be wanting of their utmost Care therein. And for ought I know, never had concern'd my self in Publick Affairs to this day, had it not been for a Book that was Publish'd by Captain *St. Loo*, in the year 1692, and by him Dedicated to his Majesty, and both Houses of Parliament, and therein propos'd a Law-Tax (which had been granted for the term of Nine Years, the 22d and the 23d of King *Charles* the Second) to be settled for perpetuity upon *Greenwich* Hospital; at the sight of which, I was surprized to see a Saylor offer such an absurd thing, much more to find the Matter often debated before the Chief Ministers of State. Upon which my Mind often suggested to me, I might do a Publick piece of service in digetting my Thoughts, and laying them before the King and Parliament; and it was not long before I took a Resölation so to do; yet not without great reluctancy and struggling within my self, being conscious of my own Weakness. However, the sense of the Duty I owed to my King and Country, soon overcame those timorous Thoughts.

So the following Session of Parliament I writ a Book Entituled, *England's Glory reviv'd*; Sold by *Thomas Newborough* at the *Golden-Ball*, in *St. Paul's Church-Yard*, which I Dedicated to his Majesty and both Houses of Parliament, and was so happy in my Notions, as to propose several things that prov'd to be of great Use and Service to the King and Kingdom, of which I shall give a brief Account before I proceed to the Matter in Hand.

First, I propos'd an Act of Tunnage for laying six Pence *per Tun* upon all Coasters, &c. which was

was passed into an Act the same Session of Parliament, and was the occasion of the raising some Hundreds of Thousands of Pounds to the Use of the Publick, tho' the Act has since been repealed.

Secondly, I proposed that all Saylorers on Board Merchant-men and Coasters, should pay somewhat out of their Wages, towards the Relief and Support of such Saylorers that should happen to be wounded or maimed in his Majesties Service (and gave my Reasons to prove the Feasibleness, Equity and Justice thereof) which some time after was also passed into an Act, upon which is founded the Revenue of *Greenwich* Hospital, which owes its Being and Foundation to his Majesty's Goodness, (as to its being an Hospital) and will be a glorious thing, and greatly to the Honour and Interest of the Nation, when once we come to have Justice duly administred, and the Saylorers treated with Humanity.

Thirdly, I made it appear by plain Matter of Fact, and Actions of the Government, there was no occasion of laying any Embargo upon Shipping (for from the beginning of the War to that time, the Nation had seldom been free from an Embargo) and rendred it to be, as truly it was, like stopping the Circulation of a Man's Blood in his Body, which had its desired effect. I also made it appear, the Press Ketches were not only a great Charge to the Government (Computed by Captain *St. Loo*, at 60000 Pounds *per Annum*) but a Burthen to Trade, and wholly useless, and shewed how the Royal Navy might be manned with stout and able Seamen, with little or no Charge to the Government, which

which was acknowledged and allowed to be true, by the Lords of the Admiralty, but never put in practice.

Thus have I given a brief Account of the Chief Matters contained in the foresaid Book, which I should not have mentioned at all, being Forreign to the Matter in hand, only the Publishing of it was that which brought to my Knowledge a great deal of Wickedness that was committed in the Government, by Persons who were then in Places of Publick Trust. So I took a Resolution to lay open their Crimes before both Houses of Parliament; Accordingly the next Session of Parliament I writ a Book Entituled *Great Britains Tears*, which I Dedicated and Presented to both Houses of Parliament; and therein set forth the horrible Corruption there was in the Government, and how fatal the Consequence would be, if a stop were not put thereto. The House of Commons was pleased to take notice of one Passage therein, wherein I offer'd to prove how some Persons had defrauded the King of two or three hundred Thousand Pounds, upon which I was ordered to appear at the Bar of the House, which I did, and there declared the same, and offer'd to prove it, provided I had the assistance of that Honourable House. Then was I ordered to withdraw, and soon after came out to me one of the Commissioners for taking and stating the publick Accounts (whom I very well knew) who told me I was referred to their Board, where he said I should have all imaginable Justice; but making my Application to that Board, they refused to receive Matter I would have laid before them upon Oath. So finding I could make nothing of it in the House of Commons (in which those who were Guilty, had too great footing, a Dissempe
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the Nation was never troubled withal before) Resolved to make my Application to the House of Peers, in order thereunto, I drew up Articles against the Lords of the Admiralty, the Commissioners of the Navy, and the Commissioners for the Sick and Wounded Sea-men, which are as follow.

1. That the present Commissioners for Sick and Wounded Sea-men, and exchanging Prisoners at War (depending on the Admiralty) not regarding Instructions, or the good of the Government, have committed gross Enormities, as holding, or conniving at an unlawful Correspondence with the *French*, and wronging both King and Subject in their Accounts, with other great Miscarriages; all which has been about a Year since, laid in Writing before the Secretary of State, by one Mr. *Baston*, and by the King's command, examined before the Lords of the Admiralty, &c. And it will appear, the said Commissioners have been very Injurious to the Poor Saylor's in particular, and very detrimental to the Government in general.

Secondly, That the Lords of the Admiralty and the Commissioners of the Navy have acted contrary to the Publick good, by Countenancing, Supporting and Preferring Criminals, and on the contrary, Persecuting the Discoverers, and turning Just Men out of their Offices.

Thirdly, That the Lords of the Admiralty have had great Discoveries laid before them, of Embezzlements, and other great Frauds committed in the Kings Yards, attended with Forgery and Perjury.

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Fourthly,

Fourthly, That it is manifest, that some of the Commissioners of the Navy, have in that Office advanced themselves from Sallaries of 30 Pounds *per Annum*, to vast Estates. Having passed great Frauds, and totally discouragèd the Discovery of Embezelled Stores, to the great waste of the Publick Treasure.

Fifthly, That it hath been a long practice in the Navy, to make out False Tickets and Powers, suspending and delaying the poor Saylor's in their just Payments, to the great Discouragement of them, and starving their Families.

These Articles, with my Petition, I Presented to a Noble Lord, who was pleased to receive the same, and cause them both to be read in the House of Peers; upon which I was ordered to give in a List of my Witnesses, as I did in part, and then their Lordships proceeded upon the matter, and at the Bar of the House, examined divers Witnesses upon the first Head; by whom I proved that an Apothecary in *Watling-street* had served in at the Laboratory in the *Savoy*, for the Use of the Sick and Wounded Seamen, a great quantity of Damaged Rhubarb, which cost him but about 9d. $\frac{3}{4}$ *per pound*. But as I was proceeding, the foresaid Commissioners of Accounts, sent their Secretary to the House, and humbly prayed They might have the Examination thereof. Whereupon their Lordships made an Order of Reference to that Board touching the First Head; and the Day following, the Second and Third Head, and that they should examin them, and then transmit them and the Examination, to the House; which Orders were never obey'd (tho' some Proceedings

ceedings they did make, of which an Account shall be given) notwithstanding their Lordships afterwards, upon my humble Petition, made two several Orders in my Favour, requiring the said Commissioners to proceed in examining my Articles to them Referred, and transmit the same to the House; yet neither of those Orders were ever obeyed: By all which, it may plainly be seen, the House of Peers were of Opinion, the examining into these Articles would have been of great Use and Service to the King and Kingdom, and prevented a great deal of Fraud and Wickedness, which was then on foot, and has since involved the Nation in Debt, and brought an universal Poverty upon the Trading part of the Nation, and that which is even worse, and more grievous (being Entailed upon Posterity, *unless some extraordinary Means are used*) our Trade given up to the Dutch (*who to give them their due, are among themselves strict Observers of Justice, and, like Death, spare none that wittingly break their Laws, the Fruits of which they reap; being free from Faction, tho' a Compound of all Religions, and the Richest, and most Powerful State, considering the extent of their Territories, that is now, or ever was in the World; a just Reward of their Vertue*) or to speak more properly and truly, driven out of the Kingdom by Corruption and heavy Impositions, which alone is sufficient to Ruin the whole Kingdom; for it eats up the People, prevents the Consumption of the Product of the Nation in Foreign Parts, and has laid the Foundation of Clandestine Trade, never to be removed, until something else be found in lieu thereof, to answer the end for which those Duties were given.

But to proceed in Prosecuting these Articles, I unhappily fell under the Displeasure of the House of Peers, and was by their Lordships Order, taken into Custody by the Usher of the Black Rod, for Reflecting upon the House, and refusing to make Answer. But their Lordships, upon my humble Petition (which through the Favour of a Noble Lord was read in a full House) were pleased to order me to be Discharged without paying Fees, and never called me to the Bar of the House to Reprimand me upon my Knees; so the Favour I received was exemplar, and without President, for which I am, and ought to be thankful.

After this, I was committed to the *Poultry Compter*, (where I remained for the space of about six Weeks,) by a Justice of the Peace, for Publishing a Book, Entituled, *A Dialogue between a Modern Courtier, and an Honest English Gentleman*; which he in his Warrant of Commitment, was pleased to call a *Seditious and Scandalous Libel*, notwithstanding at the same time he Committed me, he publicly declared before near twenty Persons, it was a very Honest Book, and his own Losses could sufficiently speak as to the Truth of it; but said, he durst not do otherwise, he should be chid and gain Displeasure: In fine, I laid my Cause before both Houses of Parliament, which occasion'd an Expedient to be found in order to my being Released, so I was by a Messenger taken into Custody by a Warrant from the Secretary of State, for Publishing a Seditious and Scandalous Libel, and coming out of the Prison, the Messenger and I parted, and there was an end of my Confinement for Publishing that *Seditious and Scandalous Libel*, Entituled, *A Dialogue, &c.* Only
two

two or three days after, I went to the Secretary's Office, and there made Oath, (which I offer'd before, but it would not be accepted) Mr. *Baston* was the Author of the foresaid Dialogue, for which they detained him about six Weeks longer, in all, about three Months (he having before been taken into Custody) and then discharg'd him upon his own Recognizance. Yet no sooner was he at liberty, but he Dedicated and Presented this Seditious and Scandalous Libel to the House of Commons (to which I must confess I was accessary) to whom he appealed for Justice, but the House took no notice of it one way or other.

Now as to the Proceedings of the Commissioners for stating the Publick Accounts, I shall wave giving a Relation of Matters in reference to that Board, more than what is absolutely necessary, they being all gone (but two) to state their Accounts at the great Tribunal of Heaven. There appeared, (for formality sake) before the said Commissioners, three of the Commissioners of the Navy, who produced, in their Vindication, a Folio Book, by which they pretended to Shew how faithful they had been to their Trust, and insisted upon it as a great Evidence thereof, the said Book contained the Names of a multitude of their Officers, whom from time to time they had Muſt 5, 10 *l.* per Man, for Embezzling his Majesty's Naval Stores, whereas a greater Evidence could not possibly have been given of their Fraud and Breach of Trust: For by the Law, it was Felony without Benefit of Clergy, or eight Years Servitude in the *West-Indies*, not to return upon pain of Death, to Steal, Embezel, or Purloin any of his Majesties Naval Stores, to the value of Twenty Shillings, 22 of *K. Charles 2d. Chap. 5.* By all which

which it's manifest, their Officers were no other than the Instruments or Tools by which they Embezzled the Publick Treasure; more fully to confirm which, I shall give a brief Account of some Matters I would fully have proved, if I might have been fairly heard, the greatest part whereof can and may still be proved, and a great deal more than what is here related, and was by me divers times laid before both Houses of Parliament. It was proved before the Lords of the Admiralty, great Embezzlements were made of his Majesty's Naval Stores out of *Portsmouth Yard* (besides many Fraudulent Contracts made on the behalf of the KING) by Mr. *Graham* Clerk of the *Checkq.* Mr. *Trevor*, Clerk of the Rope-yard; Mr. *Baten*, Clerk of the Survey, and Sub-commissioner for Prizes, and other Officers of the Yard. Upon which, divers Persons were indicted and Tried at the King's-Bench-Bar, where the Commissioners of the Navy appeared in a Body to bring off the Criminals, which they effected, by producing a Sham Book of Loans, and saying those Goods, for which the Prisoners at the Bar stood indicted, were only such as had been lent out of Stores, which in it self was a notorious falshood, for no Stores are ever lent but to Ships in distress, whereas the Prisoners at the Bar were private Traders, but who should question the veracity of the Commissioners of the Navy, when their Justice had never been publickly call'd in question? Such another Business as this, was as prudently managed in the Country; for divers Persons were taken up at *Portsmouth* upon the same Account, and were all bound by Recognizance before the Mayor of *Portsmouth*, to appear at *Winobester Assizes* (among which was a certain Merchant, who thro' fear, and in hopes to save himself, deposed upon Oath, he had bought
several

several Thousand Pounds worth of the King's Embezzled Stores, as his Neighbours had done. And that he had for many Years served the King's Yard with Pitch, Tar, Oyl, &c.) But when the Judge came the Circuit, the Mayor never delivered in his Recognizances, whereupon the Court fined him 200 *l.* Upon which, Captain *Wilshaw*, the Commissioner of *Portsmouth* Yard, sent Mr. *Bizil* the Town-Clerk of *Portsmouth*, along with the Mayor to post after the Judge to *Salisbury*, who prevailed with the Judge to take off the Fine, and upon his return, gave the Captain a Note of the Charge and service done, being in all about Eight Pound, which he paid him, but dropt the Note in the King's Yard, and when my Articles were under Examination before the Commissioners, for stating the Publick Accounts, was Mr. *Bizil* summoned up from *Portsmouth* about this Note, which was then produced, and was by him acknowledged to be the Original Note he gave to Captain *Wilshaw* for the forefaid Service, but the Commissioners of Accounts were never at leisure to take his Deposition, tho' he waited several days; however, before he went out of Town, he made Oath of the matter, as it has been Related before the Lords of the Admiralty, in whose Office the Note remains.

A poor Rope-maker in *Portsmouth* offered Mr. *Trevor* 200 *l.* to give way to the Embezzelling the Kings Naval Stores (set at work no doubt by Captain *Wilshaw*; for when the matter first broke out, great Endeavours were used to have Compos'd the matter at his House) which he refused, and laid the Matter before the Lords of the Admiralty. Yet this very Fellow did the Commissioners of the Navy afterwards make Master-Rope-maker of *Portsmouth* Yard, in which station he improv'd his time so well, that last

last Year he was Judged to be worth 20000 £. but happened then to fall under Misfortuné, for one of his Under-Agents began to Cackle, whereby he was obliged to give him money, of which he soon grew weary, so spoke to two Soldiers to let them know such a Person was troublesome to him, upon which they murdered the man, and gave him notice thereof (who, as its said, went and viewed the dead Body) and then buried him in the Sand; but the Tide washed up the Body and drove it to Shore, and then it was found the poor man had been murdered, but by whom it was not known, until one of the Souldiers, by some means, confessed the matter. Then was his Comrade and his Majesties Rope-maker seized, and Tried at *Winchester* Assizes, where the Souldier was condemn'd to be hang'd, and accordingly Executed, and his Majesties Rope-maker sentenced to be burnt in the Hand, and forfeit all his Goods and Chattels to the King.

But to return to his Majesties Officers, that proved these Crimes, to see how they were treated, Mr. *Graham* and Mr. *Trevor* were by the Commissioners of the Navy, suspended from their Employments, and had many Articles framed against them, and notwithstanding they proved those Articles to be notorious false, yet were they never restored, or could have any reparation, tho' its true, Mr. *Trevor* was, by his Majesty's Order, twice heard before some of the chief Ministers of State, yet nothing came on't. No body could be found to Accuse Mr. *Baten*, therefore a Letter was procured from the Late Queen of Blessed memory, ordering him to be dismiss out of both his Employments, as was accordingly done. In Conclusion, Mr. *Graham*, and Mr. *Trevor* died through Grief, and

and Anguish of mind, as did likewise Mr. *Buſton* and others, to find themselves so barbarously treated, for their Faithfulness and Justice to the Government. And the Sufferings which I have undergone, am I no ways able to Express; for by the Corrupt, Ignorant, and unthinking part of mankind, together with the evil Treatment I received; have I been (as others were) almost worried to Death (having been ill treated in my private Affairs, as well as publickly oppressed: For, three Years have I been kept out of the Interest of 600 Pound, and since I have been in Possession of the Estate in Mortgage, have I had no less than three several Heirs started up, and now lately, an old pretended Judgment, and a Bill filed against me by a *Pauper*) but through the goodness of God, I have hitherto escaped with my Life, and shall proceed to give a further Relation of evil Practices that have been committed in the Government.

‘ I take it to be the great business
 ‘ of every Man’s Life (says Mr.
 ‘ *Rushworth*, to whose Memory this
 ‘ Nation is deeply Indebted) to Learn
 ‘ what the World is, what has been
 ‘ done, and what is doing in it, and
 ‘ upon the whole, to judge what
 ‘ ought to be done.

For as we have many Members in one Body, and all Members have not the same Office ; so, we being many, are one body, and equally concern'd in each others preservation. And also obliged (in Case of Necessity) to aid and assist our Neighbours, due regard being first had to our own safety.

But to proceed, the Commissioners of the Navy, sold out of Chatham Yard to one Zachariah Coates, Sixteen Tun twelve hundred pound weight of Hemp, under the Notion of Rackings, or Flyings, at thirty Shillings per Tun. Upon which, five Hoyes were Laden with Hemp (crammed full in the Hold, and heaped up upon Deck) Burthen two hundred and forty Tun, seventy or eighty Tun of which, it was proved upon Oath, was delivered to the said Coates, and the rest found lodg'd in two obscure Warehouses, by a worthy Citizen who made it his business to discover this Fraud, and took a Sample of this Hemp, and went and laid the whole matter before the Commissioners of the Navy, and offered them fifteen Pounds per Tun for the Hemp that was remaining in those two Warehouses, if they could justify the Sale ; at first they seem'd to be much surpriz'd. But to secure and make all fast, they took the principal Witnesses that proved the Fact, into his Majesties Service, so the matter
was

was huffed up, but a further Evil attended this Matter, for great part of this Hemp (which was the Ribbs and Bands of Hemp, and not the best, which at that time was worth twenty six, or twenty seven pound *per Tun*) was wrought into Cordage, and sent to *Debtford* Yard, and found upon a survey, by the proper Officer of the Yard, to be forty Pound *per Cent.* worse, than what was delivered by another Person.

Twice did I Lay this Matter open in Print, and offered to prove it. Yet no notice was taken of it only by one Mr. *Culliford*, who was then a Member of Parliament, and promis'd to lay the matter before the House of Commons, which he never did. However he manag'd the Business prudently (according to the Humour of the Times) in reference to his own Interest, for he soon made the Commissioners of the Navy sensible of their Crime, so they not only complied to buy Canvass of him for the Kings Use (which before they refused to do) but prevailed with divers of the King's principal Ministers, to go in a Body (as appears by the Printed News Papers) to see Mr. *Culliford's* Looms for making Canvass, and promis'd all possible Encouragement to so good a Work; and that was not all, for Mr. *Culliford* was introduced (to keep him quiet) into an Employ in the Customs to the value of about seven or eight Hundred Pounds *per Annum*, which he Enjoys to this day.

An Eminent Sayl-maker went and acquainted the Comptroler of the Navy, there were great Embezelments made of the King's Canvas, to such a degree, that it was an Injury to the whole Trade, by being under-fold; and told him if he might be Impowered, he could actually take the Goods upon the Offenders, and put an end to that Evil practice. To which the Comptroller answer'd, and said, *Kings and Princes are born to be cheated.* So would not meddle in it. This Sayl-maker afterwards proved it to his Face, before divers of the Chief and Principal Ministers of State.

In the Month of *April* last, the forementioned Citizen bought (through great importunity) a parcel of Ropes to the value of about nine Pounds, which being done, he much questioned the goodness of them (it being cheaper than he could buy the Hemp) the Rope-maker did assure him they were made of right *Riga* Hemp, which he bought of one *Hicks*, an Officer belonging to the King's Yard at *Cbatham*, upon which the Citizen had him before the Commissioners of the Navy, and asked them what he should do in the matter (he not daring to pay the mony without their Knowledge or Order) they told him, all they could say to it, was, he must pay the money, as he accordingly did: Now this *Hicks*, of whom this Hemp was bought, was one of the chief Witnesses that proved the fore-going matter about the *Rackings* or *Flyings*. So the World may see the Thieving Trade still goes on, and must, and will do so (as things now stand)
for

for the Commissioners of the Navy dare not prosecute their Officers, but are obliged to protect them, as it appears they have carefully done hitherto *in order to their own preservation*. For *no man but will sell Truth, rather than be hang-ed.*

As to what I accused the Commissioners of the Navy in reference to their abusing the poor Saylor (who are one of the greatest Bulwarks of the Kingdom) it now notoriously appears to the whole Earth, far more English Saylor have turned Pyrates (or deserted their Native Countrey) within these seven or eight Years past, than in many hundred years before, which can never be attributed to any other cause, than their having been made Desperate by Evil Usage; by which it's manifest to the World, many thousands of poor Saylor have Perished, to the Eternal Scandal and Reproach of this Nation (were there no greater evil in it) for while the *Dutch* and *French* were encouraging their Saylor, and using all Arts whereby to encrease them, were we treating our Saylor, as if we had designed to have rooted them out from among us; and *well it were the Saylor were all call'd home, and pardoned; and the Authors of their Misery sharply punished.*

It was proved before the Lords of the Admiralty, by near Forty Witnesses, notorious Embezelments were made of his Majesties Naval Stores, in all the King's Yards, yet nothing came

came on't; only great Endeavours were used to ruin the Person that laid those Crimes before their Lordships, which in the end was effected, by illegal means, in a Judicial manner.

In short, Its manifest the Lords of the Admiralty did all they could to prolong the War, by not intercepting the *Thonlon* Squadron. By shamefully exposing the Trade and Shipping of this Kingdom to the Violence of the Enemy, all the time of the Late War; and as the Nation grew poorer and poorer, did *they and their Adherents increase in Wealth and Grandure*. Yet now are they all ready to say as *Agag* did, (whom *Samuel* slew before the Lord in *Gibjal*) *Surely the bitterness of death is past*.

He who shall Publickly declare, a Fleet is not the best Security to this Kingdom in time of Peace, deserves more to be whipt at the Geers, or hanged at the Yard Arm, than be an Admiral.

By all which has been related, there's not the least doubt to be made, But that all those Crimes that were during the late War, and since, publickly laid to the charge of the Commissioners of the Excise, (who barbarously treated *Mr. Bruggby* for his Justice to the King and the Publick) the Commissioners of the Customs, the Com-

Commissioners of the Post Office, (whose Crimes were proved about four Years since, by Mr. *Blackball*, and others, besides *Woodgate's* business, and of which I have an Authentick Copy; the Commissioners of the Prize Office (whose Crimes appear to be Notorious, by what I took out of their own Books, by means of a Worthy Member of the House of Commons, &c. are all undoubted Truths. For by *Hercules's* Foot, we may know the Proportion of his Body, and by a little, easily judge what a great deal means.

“ They are unhappy Men that shall endeavour to set the King and the Body of the Realm at variance; for it is the People that must Pray, that must Pay, and must Fight for their Prince. Said *Abbot* Archbishop of *Canterbury*; who, like a pious good Man as he was, carefully avoided even the very Conversation of those Persons, who, in his time, oppressed the People, and abused the King's Ear.

They who oppress the Subject, and Embexel or waste the Publick Treasure, Invade every Man's Property, and are Enemies to the King and his People: For they destroy (as much as in them lies) that mutual Trust and Confidence in each other, which is absolutely

solutely necessary between the King and his People.

In the mean time, the shifting and changing of Hands, and not punishing Offenders, (as hath been practised hitherto, and the Cause of all the Nations Misery) is no other than putting the People, as it were, out of the Frying-Pan into the Fire. For it Contemns the Law, Condemns the Innocent, Corrupts the Morals and Manners of Men, and in effect, Destroys all Property, by leaving the whole Body of the People at the Mercy of Publick Ministers; who being out of the reach of the ordinary Course of the Law, will never do the People justice, till they are made to know the sanction, weight, and force of the Law; the generality of Mankind, especially Publick Ministers, being wholly govern'd by Example.

*In vain do the Clergy Preach, and Complain of the Immorality and Wick-
edness*

edness of the Age ; so long as the Law is silent, and does not punish Offenders. Vertue and Vice being progressive, and gain the Ascendant one of the other, according as they are more or less countenanced and Encouraged by the Civil Magistrate, who are the Ministers of God for Good, so long as they do well, and not otherwise. Therefore no man's Quality or Station, can, or ought to exempt him from the just Censure of the Law, Moral Justice being that to which every man has a natural Right, and the only thing now wanting to make the King and his People truly Happy.

‘ It's both certain and Evident to all
 ‘ men, that the Publick Peace and
 ‘ Happiness of any State or Kingdom,
 ‘ cannot be preserved, where the Laws,
 ‘ Liberties, and Customs established by
 ‘ the lawful Authority in it, are openly
 ‘ transgressed and annulled.

D

‘ And

‘ And whereas no Nation can sub-
‘ sist without the Administration of
‘ good and impartial Justice, upon
‘ which mens Lives, Liberties, Ho-
‘ nours, and Estates, do depend.
Jerem. 8. 22. *Is there no balm in Gile-
ad? is there no Physician there? Why
then is not the Health of the Daughter
of my People Recovered?*

WHAT

WHAT I have writ (more than what relates to Matter of Fact) is not out of Malice to any Man's Person (for I think, according to my poor Capacity, the heaviest Punishment that can be inflicted upon State Offenders, is, That they may out-live their Honour and Estates. Better a few suffer justly, than the whole Nation be ruined. And in this case there's no medium. For all the Money in the Kingdom won't fill a Sack that has no bottom. *The Glorious Liberty of a Free Subject, is a Jewel of Inestimable value.*) But to vindicate my self, and satisfy the World; I was moved and led to do what I did in reference to the Publick, thro' a sense of Duty, and a just Apprehension and Foresight of the Evils that would ensue, and are since come to pass. And that I am no Mad-man, or Enemy to the Government (as I have been rendred for almost these seven Years past) but a true English-man (rightly understood) and his Majesty's faithful Subject. Nevertheless I am obliged in Duty, to beg pardon, for my Weakness, Frailty, and freedom of Speech, which now I do upon my bended Knees, before this August Assembly, who are the Wisdom of the Nation, and the great Conservators of the Liberties and Property of the People. So I shall not presume to say any more, but close all with what I writ, when first I appeared in Print.

Who

Whoever, with an Impartial Eye, shall behold the Constitution of the *English* Monarchy, must acknowledge it to be the best Established Government in the World: Whose Parliaments are (and have been) the glory of their Prince, the Bulwark of the People, and the Terror of their Enemies. And whenever there was that happy Union between King and Parliament, which now we have the Blessing to enjoy, it hath begot an Excellent Harmony, and great and glorious Actions have been performed by our Ancestors, to their immortal Fame, who have often made the *Gallick* Shore to Tremble.

I am with all profound Respect,

Your Honours

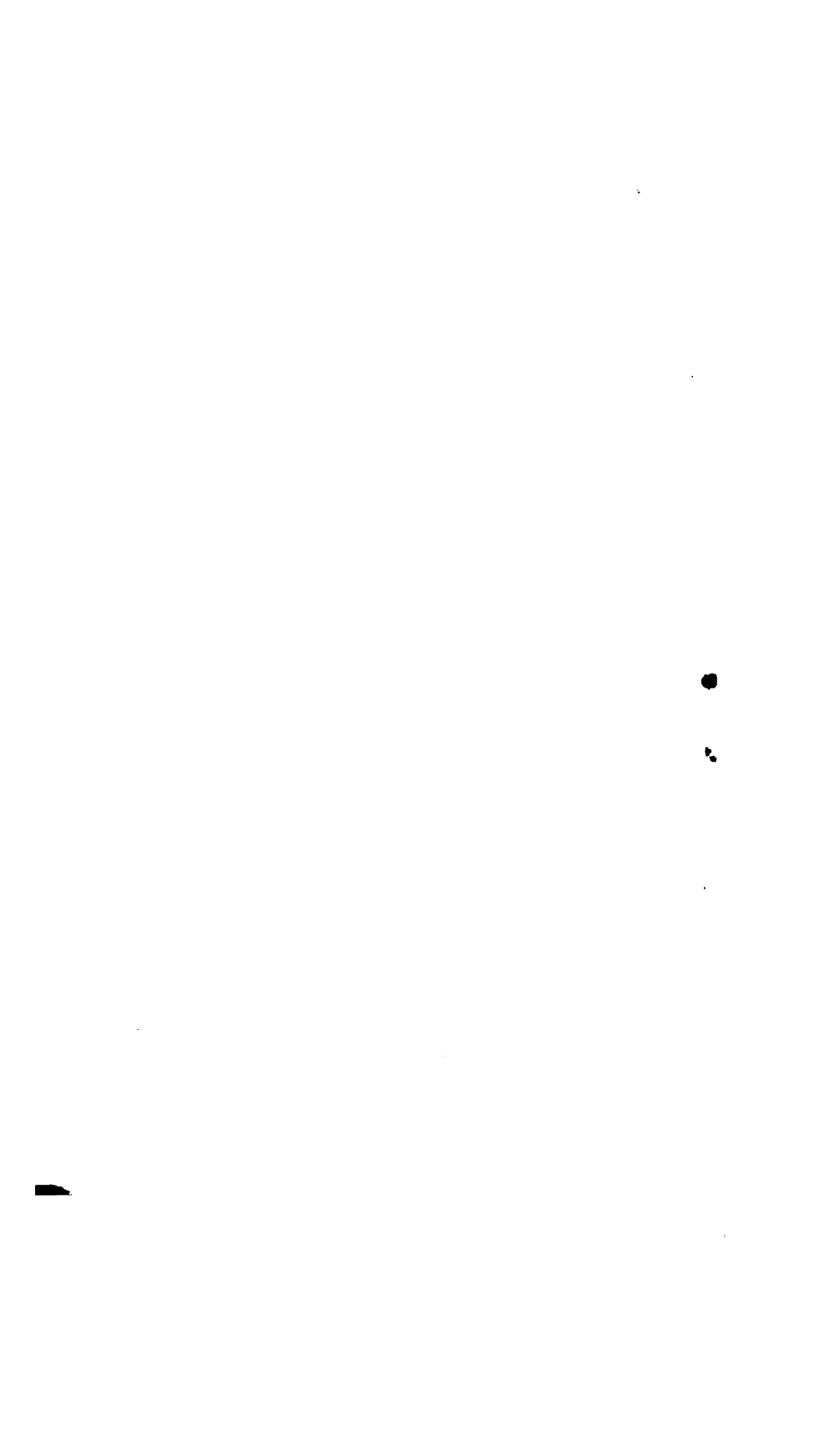
Most Obedient Servant,

Robert Crosfield.

Cockpit-House,
Clarkenwell-Close.
Feb. 6. 1701.

W.J.
F I N I S.











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